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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7679
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-2/REA/NMJIC-J2// PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5/RUE// PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/USCENTCOM SPECIAL HANDLING MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-JCH/HSE// PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:ISA-ADMIN//
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J2/J5-EUR//
RHEFNGB/NGIC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//IANG/CE/CECM//

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 000864

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DEPT FOR SCA/CEN (PERRY)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/14/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ENRG](#) [TX](#) [ZK](#)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NIYAZOV HINTS THAT APPROVAL ON MARY
DIVERT AGREEMENT MAY BE FORTHCOMING

REF: A. ASHGABAT 00584

[1](#)B. ASHGABAT 00440

[1](#)C. SECSTATE 64711

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Jennifer L. Brush, for reasons 1.4 (b)
and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) During a August 14 with visiting SCA/PDAS Mann, Turkmenistan's President Niyazov strongly hinted that his government soon would approve the divert agreement for Mary Airfield. Following PDAS Mann's thanks to Turkmenistan for its assistance with Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, the president said, "we have reviewed your document and will be approving it soon, we will inform the embassy when it is ready." Looking directly at Charge, Niyazov said, "you know what I'm talking about, right?" In the meantime, Niyazov added, "our doors are open."

[1](#)2. (C) Comment: President Niyazov and Foreign Minister Meredov typically have discussed this negotiation in carefully controlled circumstances and Niyazov likely did not want to go into detail in front of the other government officials attending the Mann meeting. The "open doors" remarks probably is a reference to earlier assurances that until a divert agreement is finalized, Turkmenistan would grant emergency landing rights to U.S. aircraft. Though the U.S.-proposed language was delivered to Turkmenistan in April, the government had requested that USG not expect a response until after the July 24-25 visit to Turkmenistan of Iranian President Ahmadinejad. End Comment.

[1](#)3. (U) PDAS Mann has cleared this message.
BRUSH